

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 4,222,665 (Tachizawa). The rejection is respectfully traversed and the Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection in light of the following comments.

The present invention concerns interprocess communication in computer programs and multitasking functions of an operating system in executing the programs, particularly with regard to acquisition and display of data of a measurement target, such as a solar battery. According to the invention, a computer program for acquiring data of a measurement target is independently executed. Likewise, a computer program for generating display information on the basis of the acquired data is independently executed. However, the acquisition and the display generation processes exchange data by interprocess communication and are executed under a multitasking function of an operating system. Thus, since the two processes are performed independently of one another by the multitasking function of the operating system, if an error occurs in one program the other can continue to be executed. As such, if the display information generating computer program fails, the data acquisition can continue and the acquired data can be displayed at a later time by the display process once it returns to normal operation.

Referring specifically to the claims, independent Claim 1 is an information processing apparatus for accumulating data of a measurement target, the apparatus comprising an acquisition section, arranged to acquire the data of the measurement target by independently executing a computer program for data acquisition, and a display section arranged to generate information to be displayed by independently executing a computer program for display information generation, on the basis of the acquired data, wherein the acquisition section and the display section exchange data by interprocess communication,

and the data acquisition computer program and the display information generation computer program are executed under an multitasking function of an operating system.

Independent Claims 7 and 13 are method and computer medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 1.

Independent Claim 14 includes features along the lines of Claim 1, but also includes additional features. Thus, Claim 14 is an information processing apparatus for accumulating data of a measurement target, the apparatus comprising an acquisition section, arranged to acquire the data of the measurement target by independently executing a computer program for data acquisition, a display section, arranged to generate information to be displayed by independently executing a computer program for display information generation on the basis of the acquired data supplied to the display section by the acquiring section by interprocess communication, a recording section, arranged to record the data obtained by the interprocess communication on a recording medium, by independently executing a computer program for data recording, a communication section, arranged to transfer data obtained by the interprocess communication to another information processing apparatus connected to a network by independently executing a computer program for data transfer, and a management section, arranged to control operations of the acquisition and display sections in accordance with priorities of the acquisition and display sections, by independently executing a computer program for operation control, wherein all of the computer programs of the acquisition, display, communication, and management sections are provided as an integrated computer program which integrates the independent computer programs and the computer programs are executed under a multitasking function of an operating system.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 1, 7, 13 and 14. More particularly, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of independently executing a computer program for acquiring data from a measurement target, and independently executing a computer program for generating display information on the basis of the acquired data, wherein the acquiring and the generating processes exchange data by interprocess communication and the computer programs are executed under a multitasking function of an operating system.

Tachizawa is merely seen to disclose a solar battery meter-recorder that measures the output power of a solar battery and records the measured output and date of the measurement to different memory sections. To read out the measured data and the time data and have it displayed on a display 17, the user operates a switch 104 between a TIME side and a DATA side. (see column 4, lines 35 to 54.) Thus, while Tachizawa may provide for measuring data, storing the measured data and corresponding date data in a memory, and may allow a user to have the measured data and date data displayed, the operation of Tachizawa is wholly different from the present invention and does not read on the claims.

In particular, in Tachizawa, there is no exchange of data by interprocess communication between independently executed computer programs as that term is understood by those skilled in the art and as described in the specification, nor are the two programs executed on the basis of a multitasking function of an operating system as that term is understood by those skilled in the art and as described in the specification. In this regard, those skilled in the art would understand the interprocess communication as meaning the transfer of data from one execution program to another execution program. (See also, page 8, line 19 to page 9, line 3 of the subject specification for a description of interprocess communication.) In contrast, Tachizawa merely provides for the measured

data to be recorded in a memory such that the stored data can later be displayed by operating a logical circuit switch. Thus, Tachizawa does not perform interprocess communication between two computer programs as that term is understood by those skilled in the art.

Moreover, those skilled in the art would understand a multitasking function of an operating system as meaning a multitasking function performed by a software operating system, such as Windows 95. (See also, page 8, lines 13 to 18 of the subject specification.) In contrast, Tachizawa's system merely uses logical circuits in which switches 101 to 104 are operated to change between, for example, a time display and a data display. Operating logical switches is simply different from multitasking in a software operating system. Thus, Tachizawa is not seen to disclose or to suggest the claimed execution of the two programs under a multitasking function of an operating system.

In view of the foregoing, Claims 1 and 11, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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